

**In the Claims**

**Listing/Amendments to the claims including status indicators:**

Claims 1-61. (Withdrawn)

62. (Currently Amended) A liquid oral therapeutic dental composition, ~~that increases in viscosity upon contact with moisture following application to an oral cavity surface,~~ comprising: a moisture responsive gel carrier comprising a moisture sensitive polymer complex and a water soluble salt; and a therapeutic agent dispersed in the responsive gel carrier;

wherein said dental composition increases in viscosity upon contact with moisture following application to an oral cavity surface.

63. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises a thermally responsive polymer.

64. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises a pH or ion responsive polymer.

65. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial agents, tooth whiteners, anti-inflammatory agents, tooth desensitizers, anticaries agents, tartar control agents, tooth and gum surface protectants, tooth stain prevention agents and agents effective against dental plaque, halitosis, gingivitis, periodontal disease, oral ulcers and other diseases,

afflictions or symptoms of the oral cavity.

66. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises a tooth whitener.

67. (Original) The composition of claim 66, wherein the tooth whitener is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal percarbonate, carbamide peroxide, sodium perborate, potassium persulfate, calcium peroxide, zinc peroxide, chlorine dioxide, sodium chlorite, a hydrogen peroxide complex, hydrogen peroxide and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

68. (Original) The composition of claim 66, wherein the tooth whitener comprises about 0.01% (w/w) to about 20.0% (w/w) of hydrogen peroxide.

69. (Original) The composition of claim 66, wherein the tooth whitener comprises about 2.0% (w/w) to about 30.0% (w/w) of carbamide peroxide.

70. (Original) The composition of claim 62, further comprising water present in an amount of about 10.0% (w/w) to about 98.7% (w/w) of the composition.

71. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier comprises from about 80.0% (w/w) to about 99.99% (w/w) of the composition.

72. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture sensitive polymer

complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

73. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the water soluble salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium saccharin, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and ammonium chloride.

74. (Original) The composition of claim 63, wherein the temperature sensitive polymer comprises methylcellulose.

75. (Original) The composition of claim 63, wherein the temperature sensitive polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

76. (Original) The composition of claim 63, wherein the temperature sensitive polymer comprises a poly(oxyethylene)-poly(oxypropylene) block copolymer.

77. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture sensitive polymer complex is present in an amount of about 0.01% (w/w) to about 50.0% (w/w) of the composition.

78. (Original) The composition of claim 62, wherein the moisture sensitive polymer is present in an amount of about 0.01% (w/w) to about 10.0% (w/w) of the composition.

79-101 (Withdrawn)

102. (New) ) A liquid oral therapeutic dental composition for treating a condition in an oral cavity of a subject, comprising:

    a moisture responsive gel carrier comprising a moisture responsive polymer complex; and

    at least one therapeutic dental agent;

wherein said dental composition has a viscosity that increases in a more humid environment.

103. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises a metal salt.

104. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein said moisture responsive polymer complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

105. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein the moisture responsive polymer complex is present in an amount of about 0.01% to about 10.0% by weight of the composition.

106. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein the at least one therapeutic agent comprises antimicrobial agents, tooth whiteners, anti-inflammatory agents, tooth desensitizers, anticaries agents, tartar control agents, tooth and gum surface protectants, tooth stain prevention agents, agents effective against dental plaque, halitosis, gingivitis, periodontal disease, oral ulcers or combinations thereof.

107. (New) The dental composition of claim 106 wherein said whiteners comprises an alkali metal percarbonate, carbomide peroxide, sodium perborate, potassium persulfate, calcium peroxide, zinc peroxide, chlorine dioxide, sodium chlorite, a hydrogen peroxide complex, hydrogen peroxide or mixtures thereof.

108. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein the moisture responsive polymer complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and polyvinylpyrrolidone and a water soluble salt.

109. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 wherein said dental composition further comprises a stabilizer comprising 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, sodium stannate trihydrate, potassium stannate trihydrate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DETPA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediamine tetra(methylenephosphonic acid), diethylenetriamine penta(methylenephosphonic acid), sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, alkali metal pyrophosphates, alkali metal polyphosphates or mixtures thereof.

110. (New) The dental composition of claim 102 further dental composition further comprises an alkaline pH adjusting agent comprising sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium phosphate di- and tri-basic, potassium phosphate di- and tri-basic, sodium tripolyphosphate, tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane, triethanolamine, polyethylenimine or mixtures thereof.

111. (New) A liquid oral therapeutic dental composition comprising:

a moisture responsive gel carrier comprising at least one functional polymer complex; and

a therapeutic agent dispersed in the responsive gel carrier;

wherein said composition having a starting viscosity and a used viscosity that is higher than the starting viscosity.

112. (New) The dental composition of claim 111 wherein said at least one functional polymer complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

113. (New) The dental composition of claim 111 wherein at least one component of the at least one functional polymer complex comprises a polymer capable of altering the viscosity of the dental composition in response to contact with temperature, pH, ionic strength or combinations thereof.

114. (New) The dental composition of claim 111 wherein at least one component of the at least one functional polymer comprises crosslinked homopolymers of acrylic acid, crosslinked copolymers of acrylic acid, interpolymers of homopolymers or copolymers of acrylic acid, hydrolyzed or unhydrolyzed PVP/maleic acid anhydride copolymer, polycarboxylates, gellan gum, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, or cellulose acetate phthalate.

115. (New) The dental composition of claim 111 wherein said moisture responsive gel

carrier further comprises at least one water soluble salt.

116. (New) The dental composition of claim 111 wherein said at least one therapeutic agent comprises antimicrobial agents, tooth whiteners, anti-inflammatory agents, tooth desensitizers, anticaries agents, tartar control agents, tooth and gum surface protectants, tooth stain prevention agents, agents effective against dental plaque, halitosis, gingivitis, periodontal disease, oral ulcers or combinations thereof.

117. (New) A therapeutic dental composition comprising:

a moisture responsive gel carrier comprises at least one functional polymer complex; and

a whitening agent dispersed in the responsive gel carrier;  
wherein said dental composition has a lower viscosity prior to application to the oral cavity and a higher viscosity after application to the oral cavity.

118. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein said at least one functional polymer complex comprises high molecular weight acid functional polymers in combination with vinylpyrrolidone polymers and copolymers.

118. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein said gel carrier further comprises at least one water soluble salt.

119. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein said at least one polymer complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and polyvinylpyrrolidone and at least one

water soluble salt.

120. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 further comprising a stabilizer comprising 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, sodium stannate trihydrate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DETPA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediamine tetra(methylenephosphonic acid), diethylenetriamine penta(methylenephosphonic acid), sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, alkali metal pyrophosphates, alkali metal polyphosphates or mixtures thereof.

121. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 further comprising a pH adjusting agent.

122. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein said whitening agent comprises an alkali metal percarbonate, carbamide peroxide, sodium perborate, potassium persulfate, calcium peroxide, zinc peroxide, chlorine dioxide, sodium chlorite, a hydrogen peroxide complex, hydrogen peroxide or mixtures thereof.

123. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein at least one component of the at least one functional polymer comprises a polymer capable of altering the viscosity of the dental composition in response to contact with moisture, temperature, pH, ionic strength or combinations thereof.

124. (New) The dental composition of claim 117 wherein at least one component of the



functional polymer comprises crosslinked homopolymers of acrylic acid, crosslinked copolymers of acrylic acid, interpolymers of homopolymers or copolymers of acrylic acid, hydrolyzed or unhydrolyzed PVP/maleic acid anhydride copolymer, polycarboxylates, gellan gum, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, or cellulose acetate phthalate.

125. (New) A therapeutic dental composition comprising:

a moisture responsive gel carrier comprises at least one functional polymer complex; and

at least one oxidizing agent;

wherein said dental composition is dilution resistant.

126. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said composition has a lower viscosity prior to application to the oral cavity and a higher viscosity after application to the oral cavity.

127. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent is dispersed throughout the carrier.

128. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent is dissolved in the responsive gel carrier.

129. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent is dispersed homogeneously in the carrier as an insoluble suspended solid

particulate.

130. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent is emulsified with the responsive gel carrier, creating separate and discrete carrier and oxidizing agent phases within the composition.

131. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one functional polymer complex comprises carboxypolymethylene and vinylpyrrolidone polymers and copolymers.

132. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises at least one water soluble salt.

133. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 further comprising a pH adjusting agent.

134. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent comprises an alkali metal percarbonate, carbomide peroxide, sodium perborate, potassium persulfate, calcium peroxide, zinc peroxide, chlorine dioxide, sodium chlorite, a hydrogen peroxide complex, hydrogen peroxide or mixtures thereof.

135. (New) The dental composition of claim 131 wherein said oxidizing agent comprises hydrogen peroxide in an amount from about 10.0% to about 36.0% weight to weight of the composition.

136. (New) The dental composition of claim 131 further comprising a stabilizer comprising 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, sodium stannate trihydrate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DETPA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediamine tetra(methylenephosphonic acid), diethylenetriamine penta(methylenephosphonic acid), sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, alkali metal pyrophosphates, alkali metal polyphosphates or mixtures thereof.

137. (New) The dental composition of claim 131 wherein at least one component of the functional polymer comprises crosslinked homopolymers of acrylic acid, crosslinked copolymers of acrylic acid, interpolymers of homopolymers or copolymers of acrylic acid, hydrolyzed or unhydrolyzed PVP/maleic acid anhydride copolymer, polycarboxylates, gellan gum, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, or cellulose acetate phthalate.

138. (New) The dental composition of claim 125 further comprising water in an amount of about 10.0% to about 98.7% by weight of the composition.

139. (New) The dental composition of claim 125, wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier comprises from about 80.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the composition.

140. (New) A therapeutic dental composition comprising:

a moisture responsive gel carrier comprises at least one functional polymer

complex; and

at least one oxidizing agent;

wherein said responsive gel carrier increases the viscosity of the whitening composition when applied to a tooth surface, forming a more viscous gel for increasing the oxidizing agent's contact time with the tooth surface.

141. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent migrates out of the viscous gel to provide a whitening effect over a specified time.

142. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said composition exhibits effective whitening with lower concentrations of said at least one oxidizing agent.

143. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said composition further comprises about 60.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the composition of water.

144. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier comprises carboxypolymethylene and vinylpyrrolidone polymers and copolymers.

145. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises at least one water-soluble salt.

146. (New) The dental composition of claim 145 wherein said at least one water soluble salt comprises sodium salt, potassium salt, ammonium salt or combinations thereof.

147. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said at least one functional polymer complex comprises from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of the composition.

148. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein at least one component of the functional polymer complex comprises a polymer capable of altering the viscosity of the dental composition in response to contact with moisture, temperature, pH, ionic strength or combinations thereof.

149. (New) The dental composition of claim 148 wherein said pH responsive polymer comprises carboxypolymethylene, hydrolyzed or unhydrolyzed PVP/maleic acid anhydride copolymer, polycarboxylates, gellan gum, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, and cellulose acetate phthalate.

150. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent comprises about 0.01% to about 20.0% by weight of the composition of hydrogen peroxide.

151. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said oxidizing agent comprises about 2.0% to about 30.0% by weight of the composition of carbamide peroxide.

152. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 further comprising water in an amount of about 10.0% to about 98.7% by weight of the composition.

153. (New) The dental composition of claim 140, wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier comprises from about 80.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the composition.

154. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said at least one oxidizing agent comprises hydrogen peroxide in an amount from about 10.0% to about 36.0% weight to weight of the first tooth whitening composition.

155. (New) The dental composition of claim 140 wherein said contact time ranges from about five minutes to about one hour.

156. (New) A liquid oral therapeutic dental composition comprising:

a moisture responsive gel carrier comprising at least one functional polymer complex and at least one water soluble salt; and

a therapeutic agent;

wherein said composition builds viscosity upon contact with a more humid environment.

157. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said composition has a starting viscosity and a used viscosity that is higher than the starting viscosity.

158. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said at least one functional

polymer comprises carboxypolymethylene and vinylpyrrolidone polymers and copolymers.

159. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises at least one water-soluble salt.

160. (New) The dental composition of claim 159 wherein said at least one water soluble salt comprises sodium salt, potassium salt, ammonium salt or combinations thereof.

161. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said at least one functional polymer complex comprises from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of the composition.

162. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein at least one component of the at least one functional polymer comprises a polymer capable of altering the viscosity of the dental composition in response to contact with moisture, temperature, pH, ionic strength or combinations thereof.

163. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said composition further comprises about 60.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the composition of water.

164. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said at least one therapeutic agent comprises antimicrobial agents, tooth whiteners, anti-inflammatory agents, tooth desensitizers, anticaries agents, tartar control agents, tooth and gum surface protectants,

tooth stain prevention agents, agents effective against dental plaque, halitosis, gingivitis, periodontal disease, oral ulcers or combinations thereof.

166. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein the moisture responsive gel carrier comprises from about 80.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the composition.

167. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein said composition is designed to remain in contact with the oral cavity for a predetermined period of time ranges from about five minutes to about one hour.

168. (New) The dental composition of claim 156 wherein at least one component of the at least one functional polymer complex comprises a polymer capable of altering the viscosity of the dental composition in response to contact with moisture, temperature, pH, ionic strength or combinations thereof.

169. (New) The dental composition of claim 168 wherein said pH responsive polymer comprises carboxypolymethylene, hydrolyzed or unhydrolyzed PVP/maleic acid anhydride copolymer, polycarboxylates, gellan gum, poly(methyl methacrylate-co-methacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, and cellulose acetate phthalate.

170. (New) A two component dental therapeutic composition, comprising:

a first component comprising from about 10.0% to about 36.0% of at least one oxidizing agent by weight of the first component, and from about 64.0% to about 90.0%



by weight of a carrier of the first component; and

a second component comprising from about 1.0% to about 10.0% by weight of at least one oxidizing agent of the second component, and from about 90.0% to about 99.0% by weight of a moisture responsive gel carrier of the second component; wherein said second component increases in viscosity upon contact with moisture following application to an oral cavity surface.

171. (New) The two component dental composition of claim 170 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier comprises from about 80.0% to about 99.99% by weight of the second component.

172. (New) The two component dental composition of claim 170 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier comprises a functional polymer complex comprising carboxypolymethylene and vinylpyrrolidone polymers and copolymers.

173. (New) ) The two component dental composition of claim 170 wherein said moisture responsive gel carrier further comprises at least one water-soluble salt.

174. (New) The two component dental composition claim 173 wherein said at least one water soluble salt comprises sodium salt, potassium salt, ammonium salt or combinations thereof.

175. (New) The two component dental composition of claim 172 wherein said functional polymer complex comprises from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of the

Application No. 10/568,054

Customer No.: 53,096

Response to Office action of November 21, 2008

second component.